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MAXIMUM CARNAGE

**PART
9 OF 14**

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



DIRECT EDITION

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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**™

IT HASN'T BEEN EASY FOR SPIDER-MAN ALLYING HIMSELF WITH THE LIKES OF VENOM AND MICHAEL MORBIUS.



SOME PEOPLE MIGHT LOOK ON A PSYCHOTIC MURDERER AND A BLOOD-THIRSTY VAMPIRE AS HEROES...



...BUT PETER PARKER ISN'T "SOME PEOPLE."

EVEN CLOAK AND THE BLACK CAT... WELL-INTENTIONED THOUGH THEY ARE... CROSS THE LINE INTO A DISTURBING MORAL AMBIGUITY ALL-TOO OFTEN FOR THE WALL-CRAWLER'S TASTES.



IN FACT, OUT OF ALL HIS ALLIES, ONLY FIRESTAR SEEMS TO SHARE HIS PASSIONATE (SOME WOULD SAY FOOLISH) DEDICATION TO A MORAL IDEAL.



BUT TONIGHT AS THE SUN SETS, BLOOD RED OVER PROSPECT PARK...

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...THE WALL BETWEEN MORALITY AND
BIV. GOOD AND EVIL. HUMAN DECEIT
AND INHUMAN DEPRAVITY...

...SEEMS TO HAVE
UTTERLY AND
IRREVOCABLY
COLLAPSED!

MAXIMUM CARNAGE

PART NINE

WHAT A
BUNCH O'
MORONS!

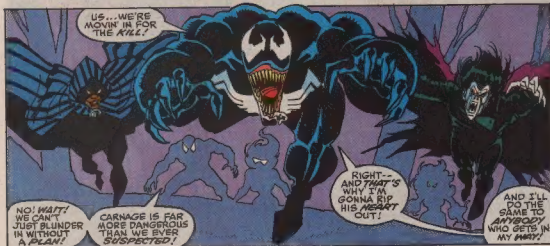
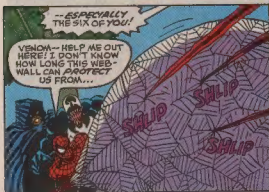
MAYBE YOU COULD'VE
STOPPED ME ONCE
WITH SOMETHING AS
PATHETIC AS THAT
SONIC GUN~ BUT
NOT ANYMORE!

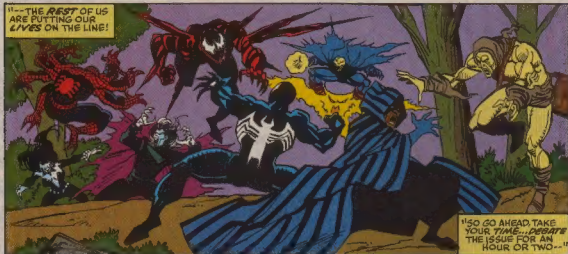
I'M NOT THE SAME CARNAGE!
I USED TIE! MY SYMBIOTE
PART OF ME NOW! IT'S IN MY
HEART! MY...MY
BLOOD!

THE TURNING POINT!

YOU CAN "KILL"
IT AND "KILL" IT
AND "KILL" IT~
BUT, BABY~

...IT
JUST
GONNA
DIE!







THE AURA OF EVIL, OF INSANITY IN THE AIR IS SO THICK THAT SUPER-
MAN CAN FEEL IT. IT'S SETTLED
OVER HIM--LIKE A LAYER OF SOOT.

THE MORE HE
TRIES TO SWEEP
IT AWAY--THE
MORE THE SOOT
SWIRLS AROUND
HIM--SO THICK
HE CAN HARDLY
SEE, BARELY
BREATHE.

HE FEELS
POISONED
BY IT; COR-
RUPTED.

YET, DEEP IN HIS
HEART IS A BELIEF
(ALMOST A PRAYER)
THAT THERE HAS TO
BE ANOTHER WAY...
A BETTER WAY
THAN THIS!

AND HE FEELS THAT--
IF ONLY HE COULD STOP
CATCHING HIS BREATH, SEE
CLEARLY FOR A MOMENT...

...THE WAY
WOULD MAKE
ITSELF KNOWN.

SONO.

I'VE BEEN STARING AT THE SAME PAGE FOR HALF AN HOUR.

I HATE HIM!

STUPID BOOK, ANYWAY. HER STYLE IS SO ANNOYING.

NO, I DON'T. I LOVE HIM!

DON'T KNOW WHY I'M EVEN BOTHERING TO READ IT. SEVENTY PAGES IN-- AND I'M BORED TO TEARS.

BUT HE MADE ME A PROMISE HE WOULDN'T GO OUT THERE PLAYING SPIDER-MAN FOR A WEEK!

WHEN I WAS A KID... I'D FEEL COMPELLED TO FINISH ANY AWFUL BOOK I STARTED.

NOT ANYMORE I'M TOO OLD TO BE WASTING MY TIME ON JUNK LIKE THIS!

ONE STINKING WEEK!

I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS!!

OH, PETER--

-- PLEASE DON'T DIE.

THE PARK.

AH...CLOAK MY DEAR OLD PAL! NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

SHRIEK-- YOU MURDERING WITCH!

MURDERER? NO!?

OH...YOU'RE STILL TICKED OFF 'CAUSE I KILLED YOUR LITTLE GIRLFRIEND, DAGGER! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO UPSET ABOUT THAT--

--SHE REALLY WASN'T YOUR TYPE!

BUT...IF SHE MEANS SO MUCH TO YOU...I THINK I CAN ARRANGE FOR YOU TO JOIN HER--

--IN HELL!

IF THERE IS AN AFTER-LIFE--YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT DAGGER IS WITH GOD, NOW.

NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY! TELEPORTING BEHIND ME!

BUT IF IT'S THE OTHER PLACE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN--

--LET ME GIVE YOU A GUIDED TOUR.



NOOOOOO!!



JOURNEY THROUGH THE DARK DIMENSION WITHIN MY CAPE, MURDERER--

--AND LEARN WHAT SUFFERING TRULY IS.



WITCHEDOWN NOTGOODMUCH TOOHAUGHTY MURDERMURDER!



AND NOW TO--

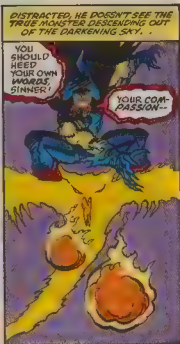


YAARRR!













WELL, WHADDAYOU KNOW?

IT WORKED!



SPIDER-MAN... DID YOU SEE THAT?

SURE DID! HE TOOK OFF LIKE HE WAS--



--SCARED TO DEATH OF HER!

WE THINK OUR "SONNY BOY" WAS LYING BEFORE WHEN HE SAID HIS SYMBIOTE WAS IMMORTAL!

--THEY STILL SEND HIM HEADING FOR THE HILLS!

BUT WE'VE TRIED THAT ALREADY... SOON AS I LET UP, HE JUST RE-FORMS HIMSELF AND--

MAYBE SONICS DON'T WORK ON HIM THE WAY THEY USED TO... BUT HEAT... FLAME--



THE TRICK IS, SWEET-CAKES--

--NOT TO LET UP--

--UNTIL CARNAGE IS DEAD!



YOU'RE GONNA COOK HIM AND COOK HIM--TILL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT A LITTLE RED SHEAR ON THE GRASS!

NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT!

I WILL NOT USE MY POWER TO TAKE A HUMAN LIFE!

OF COURSE NOT! WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY TO--



ANOTHER WAY?! THAT'S ALL WE'VE BEEN HEARING FROM YOU! THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY!

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!



TAKE A LOOK AROUND! THE BLOOD OF INNOCENTS IS EVERYWHERE!

THE ONLY WAY THIS IS GOING TO END--

--IS WITH CARNAGE'S DEATH!

THERE'S A SILENCE DEEP AND DARK--THAT SEEMS TO DRAG ON INTO ETERNITY.



IF THOSE WORDS HAD COME FROM ANY OF THE OTHERS, FIRESTAR WOULD HAVE REJECTED THEM.

BUT COMING FROM SPIDER-MAN...?

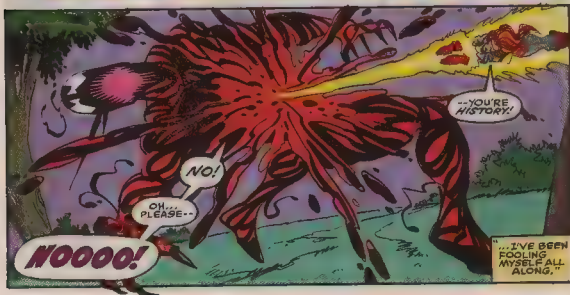


...HIS UNYIELDING DETERMINATION TO CLING TO THE DREAMS OF A SIMPLER, MORE DECENT TIME.

CARNAGE--

IT'S A DETERMINATION ANTELICA JONES HAS ADMIRERED AND EMULATED.

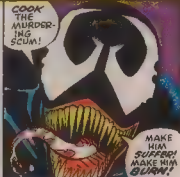
"IF HE'S FINALLY CROSSED THE LINE, SHE THINKS, 'THEN MAYBE...'



SHE CHANNELS HER MICROWAVE ENERGIES WITH A FEROCITY, A RAGE, SHE'S NEVER DARED BEFORE, BELOW HER, CARNAGE-HIS SYMBIOTE UNRAVELING--CLAPS AND FLAILS, BEGGING FOR MERCY, ALL ARROGANCE GONE, MORE A CHILD THAN A MAN.



SHE TRIES TO SHUT OUT KASADY'S PATHETIC SCREAMS, VENOM'S TWISTED URGINGS! TO TURN HER HEART TO STONE AND BLOCK OFF ALL FEELING.



BUT A PART OF HER...THE DEEPEST PART, THE TRUEST PART...WON'T LET HER BECOME STONE, WON'T LET HER BECOME THE VERY THING SHE'S DEDICATED HER LIFE TO OPPOSING.



AND WHEN SPIDER-MAN GIVES VOICE TO THAT DEEP TRUTH...





CARNAGE--?!

DON'T PASS UP
DIE

DON'T

WANKA

DIE!



JUST
IN TIME



WITCH! BETRAYER
OF INNOCENTS!
WHAT DID
YOU DO?!

WHAT'D
I DO?

JUST STOPPED
MYSELF...
FROM MAKING
THE BIGGEST
MISTAKE
OF MY
LIFE--

--THAT'S
ALL.



OH, YOU MADE
A MISTAKE
ALL RIGHT--

'CAUSE NOW
YOU HAVEN'T
JUST GOT
CARNAGE
OUT FOR
YOUR BLOOD--

--YOU'VE
GOT US!

FIRESTAR'S
PUSHED HERSELF
WAY PAST HER LIMITS
--VENOM'LL TAKE HER
APART IF I DON'T
DO SOMETHING--



KA-

--FAST!

CHOOOM!



WE DON'T KNOW
WHY WE EVER
THOUGHT
WE COULD
WORK
WITH
YOU!

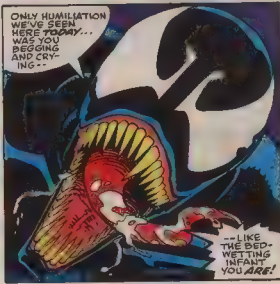
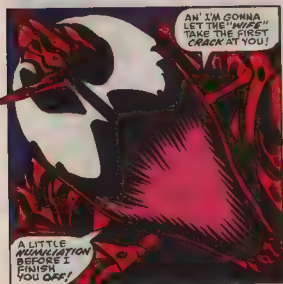
YOU'RE TOO SOFT! TOO
WEAK! YOU'LL NEVER
BE LIKE US!

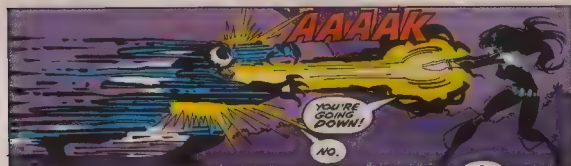
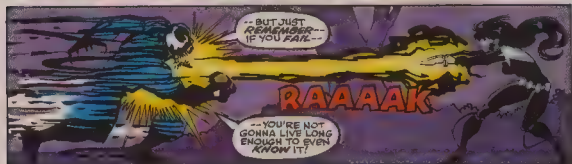
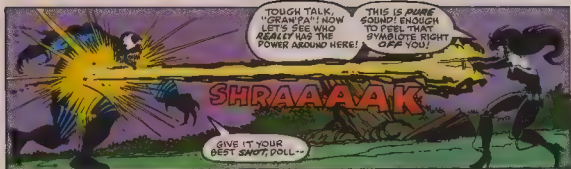
BEST NEWS I'VE
HEARD ALL DAY!

TH-

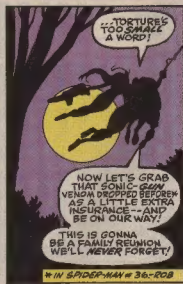
OH, HOW
WE HATE
YOU!

KOW!









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THE MORE HE TRIES TO SWEEP IT AWAY--THE MORE THE SOOT SWIRLS AROUND HIM...



...SO THICK HE CAN HARDLY SEE, BARELY BREATHE.



HE FEELS POISONED BY IT; CORRUPTED.



YET, DEEP IN HIS HEART IS A BELIEF (ALMOST A PRAYER) THAT THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY...



...A BETTER WAY THAN THIS!



AND HE FEELS THAT--IF ONLY HE COULD STOP, CATCH HIS BREATH, SEE CLEARLY FOR EVEN A MOMENT...



HOW 'BOUT A HAND, SON?



...THE WAY
WOULD MAKE
ITSELF KNOWN.

YOU
LOOK LIKE
YOU COULD
USE IT.

NEXT IN WEB OF SPIDER-
MAN #103:

HOPE!

MAXIMUM CARNAGE PART 10

